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Attorney Docket: 381NT/49487  
PATENT

#9 11/5/02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: KENJI HORII ET AL.  
Serial No.: 09/735,548 Group Art Unit: 1725  
Filed: DECEMBER 14, 2000 Examiner: Len Tran  
Title: METHOD OF BONDING METAL PLATES, APPARATUS  
THEREFOR AND HOT STRIP MILL

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 CFR §§ 1.97 and 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 CFR §1.56, Applicants hereby notify the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem relevant to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

English abstracts of the Japanese Patent documents are submitted herewith.

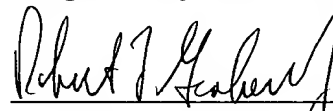
The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the later of three months from the application's filing date and the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before a Final Office Action or Notice of Allowance (whichever is earlier), and therefore Applicants are filing concurrently herewith a Statement under 37 CFR §1.97(e). No fee under 37 CFR §1.17(p) is required.

I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement and therefore no fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is required.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicants do not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

November 1, 2002

Respectfully submitted,



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FOR

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